Voluntary Wildlife Guidelines

1. To maintain wildlife habitat, minimize disturbance to shrubs and large dead and down logs on the forest floor.
2. To benefit some wildlife species, it may be desirable to leave more large and small trees and snags in addition to the minimum SMZ retention tree requirements. Consider clumping the remaining wildlife leave trees to provide hiding cover, thermal cover or other wildlife values.
3. Trees with visible evidence of wildlife use, such as dens, nests, cavities, woodpecker holes, etc., should be left.
4. If safety permits, leave culls, snags and hardwoods, especially those with broken tops and visible signs of rot. If decisions must be made regarding which snags to cut, the following species list ranks "leave" tree snags from more desirable to less desirable: ponderosa pine, western larch, cottonwood, aspen, grand fir, Douglas-fir, western red cedar, all other species.
5. To minimize disturbance of occupied songbird nests, directionally fall trees away from deciduous trees and snags, and minimize disturbance of tall shrubs when skidding logs. Consider the needs of ground nesting bird species in the harvest of upland areas. Consult with a qualified wildlife biologist if you desire species or site-specific advice.
6. Leave all trees containing nests of bald eagles or any other raptor, owl, cormorant, or heron standing and unharmed. Consider harvest effects on prey species for these species. Leave trees that are used as a perch near nests or feeding areas. Leave "screening" trees that protect nest trees from impacts of human activities and natural elements.

Plan to do timber harvest and road construction near active nests outside the nesting season. Begin timber operations as far as possible from active nest or denning trees. Consider the effect of harvest on wildlife habitat connections both within and outside the harvested area or ownership. Consult a qualified wildlife biologist for species and site- specific advice prior to harvesting.

Note dens refers to mid-sized mammals (mid sized carnivores) and bigger- don't want squirrels included here for instance, but I'm not coming up with words to capture it.